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Imagery analysis report

New Possible CSS-3 ICBM Site, China (S)

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NEW POSSIBLE CSS-3 ICBM SITE, CHINA (S)

INTRODUCTION

1. (S/D) A new surface-to-surface missile (SSM)-associated facility—possibly a CSS-3 ICBM rollout, erect-to-launch site, Tongdao Possible SSM Launch Site, China (BE [REDACTED])—has been identified under construction at 26-12-10N 109-49-20E, approximately 7 kilometers (km) southwest of the CSS-3 silo, Tongdao SSM Launch Site [REDACTED]. Extensive camouflage netting covers most of the narrow, steep-walled valley in which the site is being constructed.

2. (S/D) Eight known launch sites are associated with the CSS-3 ICBM system. Two operational elevate-to-launch silos are in central China. These silos are Sundian SSM Launch Site 1 ([REDACTED]) and Tongdao. Six rollout, erect-to-launch sites are in west China. Four of these sites at Delingha 1 through 4 ([REDACTED]) were in the late stages of construction. The two sites at Da Qaidam ([REDACTED]) were externally complete.

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DESCRIPTION

3. (S/D) The new possible site consists of four caves (three probable and one possible) in various stages of construction, a water reservoir, construction support structures, and concrete drainage conduits (Figure 1). A bridge and a new site access road were under construction. A permanent housing and support area is approximately 400 meters northwest of the construction area. A buried communications cable connects the possible launch site to the Tongdao SSM facilities.

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5. (S/D) The possible launch site was identified in the midstage of construction on ([REDACTED]) (Figure 2). On ([REDACTED]) the most current previous imagery of the Tongdao area, construction activity had not yet begun at the caves and the housing and support area (Figure 3). Imagery of ([REDACTED]) revealed no significant changes or construction progress since ([REDACTED]) (Figure 1).

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IMAGERY ANALYST'S COMMENTS

6. (S/D) The determination that this construction activity is a possible CSS-3 rollout, erect-to-launch site was predicated on the following analysis. The cable connecting this area to the Tongdao SSM communications system establishes the SSM association. The Chinese sensitivity to the observation of this activity, illustrated by the extensive netting, is analogous to prior ICBM launch site construction in central China. The proximity to CSS-3 facilities indicates a similar

system association. The single CSS-3 silo deployed at Tongdao has more than sufficient operational support facilities, increasing the likelihood of this being a launch site. Finally, the lack of evidence that silo construction is underway indicates that this facility is a possible rollout, erect-to-launch site since the CSS-3 is only deployed in these two types of sites.



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IMAGERY

(S/D) All applicable satellite imagery acquired from [redacted] was used in the preparation of this report.

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted]
[redacted] Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]

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